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H.R. 2080, Foreign Affairs, Africa-Hunger

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INTERNATIONAL HUNGER LEGISLATION

1. On April 5, 1985 the President signed an emergency supplemental appropriations measure for Africa. This measure provided \$384 million for emergency food assistance for Africa and \$137 million for emergency non-food assistance such as trucks, fuel, blankets, tents, medicines and seeds. This level of appropriations was the result of the efforts of Rep. Leland along with other members of the Hunger Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and Appropriations Committee. TO DATE -- almost all of these funds have been spent. In the very near future, Congress will need to appropriate additional funds to continue emergency non-food assistance in drought-stricken countries in Africa. Logistic constraints still remain a major obstacle in providing food assistance to famine victims -- see enclosed newspaper article on "famine transport".

2. Mickey also introduced H.R. 2080 on April 17, 1985. This bill calls for a \$900 million appropriation for the P.L. 480 Title II (Overseas Food donations) program. This bill also calls for the replenishment of the U.S. contribution to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) -- this level was not provided in the bill as negotiations between the U.S. and the other OPEC countries continue on the IFAD funding level. In addition, the bill also calls for the authorization of and appropriation for a special fund for Africa within the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This bill calls for \$100 million for the special IFAD Africa fund.

ACTION TO DATE ON THIS BILL -- The House Appropriations Committee has passed \$650 million of the \$900 million in H.R. 2080 for the P.L. 480 Title II (Food Donations Program). In addition, the House Appropriations Committee has passed \$50 million for each year FY'86 and FY'87 for the U.S. contribution to IFAD. No action has been made on the IFAD special fund for Africa.

3. The Committee has also recently published a staff report on Vitamin A deficiency in the Third World (copy enclosed). The Hunger Committee obtained an \$8 million earmark of the AID (Agency for International Development) Agricultural, Research and Nutrition account to be used for Vitamin A activities in the Third World. This earmark has been incorporated into the House Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. This bill will be going to the floor for final House passage the first or second week in September.

4. The Committee is also currently working on a number of legislative changes to the U.S. Food for Peace program. Under this program the U.S. donates food to developing countries. Basically the Committee is promoting: the expanded use of surplus commodities held by the U.S. government for overseas food assistance; broader authority for the use of U.S. food aid to promote self-help development projects in developing countries; and, the integration of primary health services -- with an emphasis on immunizations -- as a component in U.S. food assistance programs overseas.